



The Eagle

The Monthly Newsletter of the Federal Community

The Federal Executive Board of Minnesota

March 1998

<http://www.doi.gov/febtc/>

Volume IV Number III



The Federal Executive Board of the Twin Cities Goes Statewide



The Federal Executive Board of the Twin Cities is now the **Federal Executive Board of Minnesota**.

At the February meeting of the Federal Executive Board (FEB) Policy Committee it was unanimously approved to increase the geographic scope of the FEB to include the entire state of Minnesota. The change was also approved by the Office of Personnel Management, which has oversight authority.

FEB Chair Edward Daum, State Director for the Small Business Administration, said *"We feel very good about being able to serve all Federal and Postal Service workers in Minnesota."* This transformation will increase the agencies served by the FEB from 130 to well over 230 and from the 23,000 Federal civil servants within the Twin Cities to well over 33,000 statewide.

Daum continued by saying that *"We certainly invite the new members to become active participants by joining our various committees and we're looking forward to their participation."* Executive Director Ray Morris said *"This landmark change will take the FEB office a period of time to identify all the agencies within the state so they can receive important interagency information from our office."* Morris continued by saying *"we have served many agencies outside the Twin Cities over the years and now it is official -- we will provide our assistance in networking and training to outlying agencies throughout Minnesota."* This transformation will enable the FEB to assist statewide agency offices by helping them network their resources and personnel, developing important joint interagency projects, employee training and communications. *More will coming on this important change to the FEB in the future issues of The Eagle.*

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For General Distribution To All Federal Employees In Your Office

Website of the Month



This month we have launched a new feature where we focus on a Internet website that is of special interest to Federal managers and agencies. This month's focus is on govexec.com.

A USER'S GUIDE TO GOVEXEC.COM

GovExec.com is government's business news daily and the premier Web site for federal managers and executives. Here's a description of the key areas of the site:

Every day, the [Top Story](#) and [Daily Briefings](#) provide the latest news for federal professionals, including budget negotiations, appropriations measures, agency shutdowns and other events, as reported by the staffs of *Government Executive*, *National Journal*, *Congress Daily*, and the five daily publications of the American Political Network.

The [Features](#) section includes exciting resources for federal professionals, listing the latest features of GovExec.com.
This feature is continued on page 2

**Public Servant
Recognition Day
Friday - May 1, 1998**

**Federal Woman's Day
Thursday - May 21, 1998**



"The Best In The Business"

Federal Executive Board of the Twin Cities

Federal Employee of the Month

Charles H. "Chick" Dykeman, Economic Assistant
Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor
St. Paul, MN

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Charles H. "Chick" Dykeman, has served as the Chair of the STRIVE program for the Rotary Club of St. Paul for the past two years. As its first Chair, Mr. Dykeman has been responsible for the design of this program as well as successfully leading the program.

The STRIVE Scholarship Program is designed to provide incentive and encouragement to high school students who are ranked in the lower third of their class at the completion of their junior year. These students are traditionally forgotten in award ceremonies for scholarships and need the extra encouragement provided by members of the community. The student who achieves the biggest improvement in their grade point average at the end of the third quarter of their senior year is awarded a \$2,000 scholarship at any institution of higher learning. The other students are awarded \$100 each from the participating school and an additional \$100 each from a member of the St. Paul Rotary. Charles H. Dykeman is a perfect example of a government employee creating cooperation and support between the educational and business communities to provide positive role model support to high school students.

This nomination was submitted by JoAnn M. Kyril, Superintendent, National Park Service, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, St. Paul, MN.



Website of the Month - Continued from page 1

The site features **Top 200 Federal Contractors** is a collection of our popular rankings, highlighting the biggest providers of products and services to the government.

The **Federal Technology Source** is the only comprehensive database of both public and private sector information technology executives. It includes the names, addresses, phone and fax numbers and Web and e-mail addresses of more than 3,000 government and corporate information technology executives.

The **Reinvention Center** includes not only articles from *Government Executive*, but a comprehensive directory of reinvention and reengineering-oriented sites on the Web.

The **Technology** area features special reports on technology, including year 2000 conversion, systems integration, imaging, security, database management, networking, open systems and more.

Government Executive's extensive coverage of the federal marketplace is featured in the **Procurement** section, along with links to federal on-line acquisition information.

The **Careers** section provides Thrift Savings Plan information, Senior Executive Service job vacancy listings, pay tables, extensive links to career information sites inside and outside of government, and on-line job application forms. Check out the **Pay and Benefits Watch** for the latest from Capitol Hill.

Virtual Government **is a user's guide to the federal government on the Internet, with links to comprehensive directories of agency web servers.**

The **Travel** area features the regular *Government Executive* travel column, along with hotel listings, city-pair airline contracts, per diem rates for major cities and car rental rates.

For ease of research, the **Archive** section of the site features a full-text database of past articles from *Government Executive*, searchable by keywords.



The Electronic Eagle

Do you want to save fax paper? Do you have Email that can receive messages via the Internet? If so, then you could receive **The Electronic Eagle** in Full Color. You can also forward it to your staff to keep them informed of the different activities within the Federal community. It could also be printed for distribution, in color if you have the right equipment.

Now for the technical stuff! You need to have Adobe Acrobat reader on each computer where you send it. The good news is that the Acrobat reader is absolutely free and can be downloaded from the Internet at <http://www.adobe/acrobat>. Need more information, call us at (612) 725-3687. The Electronic Eagle is also posted monthly on our FEB Internet Site, <http://www.doi.gov/febtc/>.





\$\$\$ Twin Cities cost of living near national average \$\$\$

A third-quarter 1997 survey by the American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association (ACCRA) shows that the Twin Cities' cost-of-living index was 102.2 against a national average of 100. As the ACCRA research affiliate for the Twin Cities, the Greater Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce collects price information on 59 consumer items in six categories. Twin Cities figures are compiled with those of 300+ other North American cities.

The average is set at 100, and cities are ranked as a percentage of this average.



Federal Employee Days at the Minnesota Twins



The Federal Executive Board has negotiated three dates for Federal Employees at a Minnesota Twins Game in Minneapolis. The Twins will sell their lower level reserved tickets (normally \$13 each) to Federal Employees and their families for \$9 each. This special arrangement is mail order only. **Information/order forms were forwarded to each agency/postal service head, or call the FEB for an order form.** Mark your calendars -- the games and times are listed below.

Friday, April 17th	- Twins v.s. Seattle Mariners	at 7:05 P.M.
Sunday, June 14th	- Twins v.s. Chicago White Sox	at 1:05 P.M.
Wednesday, August 19th	- Twins v.s. New York Yankees	at 7:05 P.M.

Federal Supply Service

U.S. General Services Administration

GSA: Federal Supply Service Presentation, Wednesday March 25 at 1:30 P.M. at Whipple Federal Bldg. - Room 196

Presentation topics: Customer Service Center; Government Credit Cards; Fedfirst - free "professional shopping"; GSA Advantage - Internet on-line shopping or browsing; GSA Schedules - *test your knowledge, win a prize!!!*



A Message to Federal Workers from the Vice President of the United States

Five years ago this month, we embarked on a National Performance Review to change the way government works. It seemed an impossible task. Red tape, senseless rules, and rigid hierarchies separated us from the people we were pledged to serve. Public trust in government was at an all-time low and the budget deficit at an all-time high.

Today, the reinventing government initiative is the longest running and most successful government reform effort in history. Thanks to your partnerships in and out of government and the application of exciting new technologies, our government does work better and it does cost less. As a result, public trust is beginning to go up and the deficit is being eliminated.

The key to this success is you. We trusted you--the people on the front lines--to get the job done, and you delivered. You knew the problems and you knew how to fix them.

For the first time in history the federal government has measurable standards for serving the American people. We have safer workplaces, less crime, easier buying practices, faster drug approvals, and faster delivery of mail. We have cut unnecessary regulations and outdated programs, trimmed our own workforce, and saved taxpayers billions of dollars.

To celebrate this success and build on what you have accomplished, we are celebrating our fifth anniversary by launching a new Conversation with America. We urge you to begin an ongoing dialogue with the American people to learn what they want and expect from their government. Our goal is to regain in fullest measure the confidence of the people we serve.

We have recently renamed our effort the National Partnership for Reinventing Government. We ask your commitment to NPR's new vision, *America@OurBest*, and its mission, *In time for the 21st Century, reinvent government to work better, cost less, and get results that Americans care about.*

President Clinton and I are proud of you. Thank you for your fine work.





Focus On:



U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment (MSD) St. Paul, Minnesota

The Marine Safety Detachment is located in downtown St. Paul on the 15th floor of the Post Office Building on Kellogg Boulevard. We are a detached office from our Marine Safety Office located in St. Louis, Missouri. Of the eight people assigned to this detachment, six are located here in St. Paul. Two other employees are located at our Detached Duty Office in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The local detachment also has eleven Coast Guard Reservists. In addition, there are three Coast Guard Auxiliary divisions in our area of responsibility that includes the lower and western half of Wisconsin, the southern half of Minnesota, North and South Dakota and a small portion of Northern Iowa.

Area of Concern

The USCG MSD in St. Paul focuses on Port Safety and Security (PSS), Marine Environmental Protection (MEP), Waterways Management, Marine Inspections and Marine Investigations. Port Safety and Security consists of two programs: Commercial Vessel Boardings and Facility Inspections. Our office reviews vessel histories for approximately 75 tank barges that annually transfer oil and hazardous materials within our geographic area. Additionally, we conduct approximately 70 tank barge cargo monitors and 50 uninspected towing vessel boardings each year.

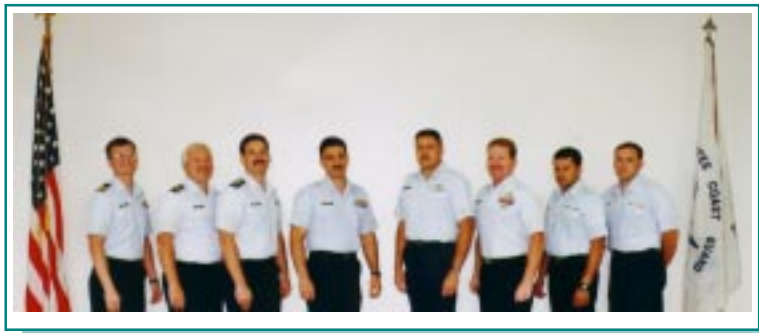
MSP St. Paul is the Federal On-Scene Coordinator for spills resulting from commercial vessels and designated waterfront facilities. U.S. Coast Guard Marine Environmental Protection is both preventative and reactive in nature. Approximately 20 pollution incidents are annually reported and investigated by this office.

MSD St. Paul works in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that the navigable waters are open for vessel traffic. Our office regulates the shipping industry to ensure that commercial vessels are complying with various regulations dealing with navigation. We also work closely with other entities within the U.S. Coast Guard to advise mariners of potential hazards to navigation through Marine Safety Broadcasts.

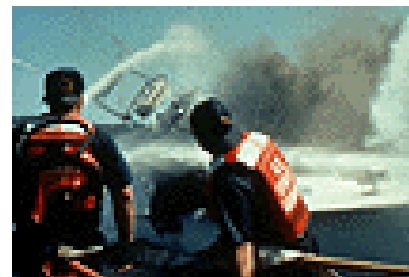
MSD St. Paul has Marine Inspectors located in St. Paul and in La Crosse, WI. These inspectors are responsible for conducting safety reviews on 40 vessels in 5 states. The vessels include: gaming ships/vessels, paddleboats, excursion and sight seeing boats. The inspectors also make 20 tank barge evaluations each year.

MSD St. Paul's Marine Casualty Investigator reviews around 85 cases annually. The investigator is responsible for determining the cause of all Marine Casualties that occur in our area of operations. Investigations include: commercial vessel collisions, allisions, groundings, as well as injuries, deaths and property damage over \$ 25,000 associated with commercial vessels.

For more information on the Marine Safety Detachment in St. Paul, call the station chief, Lieutenant Scott Bates at (612) 290 - 3991. For more information on the USCG see their website at <http://www.uscg.mil/>.



U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment (MSD) - St. Paul, Minnesota
From left to right: Lt. Scott Bates, CWO4 Rusty Sharpe, CW02 John Murren, MSTC Larry DiDomenico, BM1 Craig Sorby, BM2 James Leach, MK2 Jeff Mitchell, MST3 Eric Robinson



Please Distribute To All Employees, for more copies call (612) 725-3687



Would you like to have your Agency profiled in the next Focus section?
Our next deadline for the Eagle is April 6.

Please submit your materials including photographs and graphics to the FEB Office.
Preferably on diskette in either WordPerfect or Microsoft Word format or
Email articles to our FEB_Twin_Cities@ios.doi.gov



OPM NEWS RELEASE

<http://www.opm.gov/>

MARCH 1998

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Telecommuting

Governmentwide Pilot Project

<http://www.opm.gov/wrkfam/telecomm/telecomm.htm>

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) developed these guidelines based on a 1992 Governmentwide project in which employees from 14 Federal agencies worked at their homes rather than their regular offices for a 12 month period. In the project evaluation, supervisors reported that individual and organizational performance was as good as or better than before. Employees reported improved motivation and quality of life as well as reduced commuting time, job related expenses, and sick leave use. Labor management cooperation contributed to the success of the agency pilot programs.

Since the conclusion of the work-at-home pilot study, the Federal Government has continued its efforts to expand the use of alternate work place arrangements. Federal telecommuting programs allow employees to fulfill their job responsibilities at a site other than their principal office one or more days of the week.

The alternative worksite is typically the employee's home or a telecenter. A telecenter is a multiagency facility that provides a geographically convenient office setting as an alternative to the employee's main office. A telecenter can also serve as an administrative support center for employees working at home. The guidance provided on the OPM website was written specifically for agencies with employees who participate in a work-at-home arrangement. However, most of this guidance also applies to telecenter programs. *For more information refer to the comprehensive OPM telecommuting website at <http://www.opm.gov/wrkfam/telecomm/telecomm.htm>*



Federal
Technology
Service

Contract Award Announcement

GSA's Federal Telecommunications Service, Great Lakes Region, is pleased to announce the selection of AMSTAR Communications, Frederick, MD, as the vendor for the new Purchase of Telecommunications Services [POTS] contract [GS05T98BMD0004].

GSA and AMSTAR are committed to continue the partnership of providing excellent customer service to our clients. The new contract carries on the tradition of offering telephone equipment and services at competitive rates.

The contract was awarded on February 10, 1998. There will be a transition period between the previous contract and the new award. Customers will be able to issue orders using quotes received under the expiring contract or get new quotes under the new contract.

Preparation of a User's Guide has begun and distribution will be made as quickly as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative, Ms. Mel Lund at (312) 886-3674, AMSTAR Customer Service at (800) 964-2784, or Sandra Burkhart, your local Area Telecommunications Manager at (9612) 725-3655.



Veterans' Preference Extended

The Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105-85) **extends veterans' preference** to Gulf War veterans as well as to recipients of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) for service in Operation Joint Endeavor or Operation Joint Guard in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other areas in that region.

The Eagle is published by the Federal Executive Board staff. We encourage any comments, suggestions or articles. Please submit information by FAX or

Email: FEB_Twin_Cities@ios.doi.gov

We prefer E-mailed material. The next deadline is April 6th.

Editor/designer: Ray Morris, Executive Dir.

Co-Editor: Margaret Geisler, Admin. Ass't.



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The FEB Interagency Training Home Page

Please Forward This Segment To Your Local Agency
Training Officer/Office and All Employees



Upcoming Training Schedule Of The FEB Interagency Training Council

April 27-May 1, 1998	Basic Staffing and Placement
April 28, 1998	Time Management
April 30, 1998	Mid-Career Financial Planning Seminar
May 14, 1998	Cultivating Your Benefits Seminar
June 2, 1998	Benchmarking and Competitive Compar
June 23, 1998	Pre-Retirement Seminar
June 16-18, 1998	Basic Facilitation
July, 1998	no seminars scheduled
August 18-20, 1998	Advanced Facilitation
September 29, 1998	Pre-Retirement Seminar
September 22, 1998	Creative Problem-Solving
November 5, 1998	Finding the Value for Customers
December 10, 1998	TBA
December 11, 1998	TBA

All of the above seminars require preregistration. Registration materials are sent to each agency head 30-45 days prior the seminar date. All of the above seminars will be held in Room 570, Bishop Henry Whipple Fort Snelling.

3/98



Basic Staffing and Placement Training Course

The FEB ITC has made arrangements with the USDA Graduate School to offer a Basic Staffing and Placement training program in the Twin Cities. The course is scheduled for April 27 to May 1, 1998 and will be held in the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service 6th floor conference room in the Butler Square Building in downtown Minneapolis. The hours for this five day course will be from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm and the cost will be \$400 per participant.

Call the FEB office (612) 725-3687 for a registration form.



The 7th Annual Executive Leadership Conference *The Future of Government: The Entrepreneurial Approach*

Sponsored by the Greater Los Angeles and San Francisco Federal Executive Boards, OPM and College Federal Council for Southern California and hosted by the Southern Nevada Federal Executive Association

Held on May 12-14, 1998 at the Monte Carlo Resort, Las Vegas, NV 89109

This FEB sponsored conference focuses on the following issues: how to push your organization to the next level; private sector trends/customer service; the role of government in the gaming industry; frontiers in Federal service; government productivity and the Results Act (GPRA); from the ground up, what executives need to know; humor in the workplace; reshaping the workforce; panel discussion - ADR Alternative Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management; the Wave of the Future; violence in the workplace: domestic violence doesn't stay at home when a woman goes to work; enhancing the government's image: news survival techniques.

Registration is \$295.00 for the three-day conference. Call the FEB office (612) 725-3687 for a registration form.



FEB Monthly Calendar - April 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			American Indian Council 2:00 P.M. at FEB Office	Diversity Programs Council 8:30 A.M. at FEB Office	Partnership Minnesota Meeting at FEB office 8:30 A.M.	
5	6	7	9	9	10	11
		African American Affairs Council 10:00 A.M. at FEB Office	FEB Policy Board Meeting at 7:30 A.M.	FWP Policy Meeting 1:00 P.M. in Room 570 BHW Bldg.		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				Small and Disadvantaged Business Opportunities Council at 8:30 A.M. at FEB Office		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
				•Ms Foundation Take Our Daughters To Work Day		
26	27	28	29	30		
		•FEB Public Affairs Council Meeting 2:00 P.M. at FEB Office				

Key To Abbreviations/Acronyms

FEB - Federal Executive Board

CASU - Cooperative Administrative Support Unit

ITC - Interagency Training Council of the FEB

AAAC - African American Affairs Council

FWP - Federal Woman's Program



The FEB Office is located in Suite 510 in the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building in Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

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